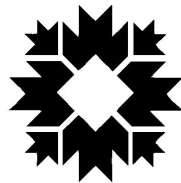


# **Adult Softball League Manual**



**CITY OF BLOOMINGTON**  
**parks and recreation**



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
parks and recreation

Team Managers,

Welcome to the 2014 Adult Softball program sponsored by the City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department.

For the Spring/Summer 2014 season, we will utilize the 12 game round robin format for Men's and Women's Leagues, and 10 game for Co-Rec Leagues. As first stated in the 2012 Manager's Manual, beginning in 2013, metal cleats are no longer permitted in league play at Twin Lakes Sports Park.

This manual contains important information about the softball program. It is important that you familiarize yourself *and your team* with this information. **Note:** Managers may access this manual online at [www.bloomington.in.gov/softball](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/softball).

**Softball Registration Information**

**League Fees/Deadlines**

**League Rules**

**Line-up Cards**

**Final Roster Forms**

**Tentative Roster**

Once again, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Good luck and have a great season!

Sincerely,

Tim Fulton

Sports Facility/Softball Program Manager

## SOFTBALL REGISTRATION INFORMATION



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
parks and recreation

### I. Sign up February 24 thru March 21, 2014

- A. Primary Nights – For the upcoming season, we will use Friday evening time slots only if they are needed to make-up rained out games.

<b>MONDAYS</b>	-Comp, Rec B, Women's D, Short-Handed
<b>TUESDAYS</b>	-Rec 4D, 3D, 2D, D
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	-Rec A, C, Comp and Short-Handed
<b>THURSDAYS</b>	-Women's B, C and E/Rec, Men's Comp, E/Rec
<b>SUNDAYS</b>	-Co-Rec B, C, D, E/Rec, F/Rec

### B. 2014 Program Information

#### 1. Scheduling

- All games will be played at Twin Lakes Sports Park.
- League placement announced after 5:00 p.m., on Friday, March 27, at [www.bloomington.in.gov/softball](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/softball) . If you have a question regarding your league placement, you must contact our office by 5:00 pm on Friday, March 28, 2014. After March 28, 2014, no adjustment can/will be made to league placements.**
- All leagues have the possibility of playing double-headers and every effort will be made to minimize the time gap between those double-header games.

#### 2. Tentative/Final Roster

- Teams will register online and will submit a Tentative Roster for their team. Additions to the roster after league placement must be approved by the League Manager prior to submission of the Final Roster. This will aid the Softball Betterment Society and League Management in ensuring the fairest league placement.
- Entire teams may not participate in 2 different leagues. A team may play up into a higher league, however, if they play up and finish in the top two places, they may be asked to move to that division in future league play.
- Players may not play for 2 teams in the same division.
- Players that play in any Comp division may not compete in the E/Rec league.**
- Teams will be placed by the Softball Betterment Society based on the composite ability of the players on the roster along with previous season(s) results. **These placements are determined to be in the best interest of the league and are final.**

3. **Reminder. Random roster audits will take place for all leagues. Cooperation in this matter is required. A team may be audited more than once during the season. All players, including reserve players, including reserve players, must sign the Final Roster before participating.**
4. **Individuals looking for a team may sign up on the individual sign up sheet available at the Parks and Recreation main office. Managers looking for players may come in to obtain a copy of the individual sign-up sheet. This is not, however, a guarantee of placement on a team within any league.**

**II. Registration and Fees** - All team fees must be brought to the **Parks and Recreation Office, 401 N. Morton St., Suite 250.** (Check, cash, or MasterCard, Visa, and Discover accepted). Office hours are 8am-5pm Monday-Friday. **Managers may obtain registration information and mail, or bring in a minimum of one-half of the total team fees from February 24 thru March 21 from 8am-5pm.** Teams will not be placed into the schedule until fee requirements are met. No team fees will be accepted at Twin Lakes.

**\*\*Managers should submit your roster and payment (multiple checks made out to Bloomington Parks and Recreation are acceptable).**

**Rosters with less than 10 players will not be accepted.**

## **FEES AND CHARGES**

Team Fee: Men's and Women's Leagues: \$720.00. Co-Rec Leagues: \$675. Short-Handed Leagues: \$240.00.

**Teams will not be allowed to play until all team fees are paid.**

ASA Sanction – All teams will be registered with the Amateur Softball Association. If your team competes in ASA Championship Play, or in ASA Sanctioned tournaments, you may obtain your ASA registration card by calling 349-3742.

**III. Schedule Release Dates** – Schedules may be picked up Wednesday, April 9 through Friday April 18, 2014, at the Parks and Recreation office, located at 401 N. Morton St., Suite 250 (City Hall) when Final Rosters with a minimum of 10 signed players are turned in; remaining fees are also due at this time. **We will not accept team fees at Twin Lakes Sports Park.**

- A. Season begins April 20, 2014 – Co-Recreational  
Season begins April 21, 2014 – Men's and Women's

- B. Game times and fields - Twin Lakes: All league games Monday - Friday, 6:15, 7:20, 8:25, and 9:30 and all Sunday Co-Rec leagues, at 5:00, 6:05, 7:10, and 8:20 p.m.
- IV. **ASA Rules** - See 2014 ASA guidebook. (Each Team will receive a copy upon payment of the team fee).
- V. **Practice Field Reservations**  
Available Fields:
- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Bryan Park                 | -March – October: <b>available times may vary</b>  |
| Butler Park                | -March – October: <b>available times may vary.</b> |
| Lower Cascades Ball Fields | -March – October: <b>available times may vary.</b> |
| RCA Park                   | -First Come, First Served (No Reservations)        |
- VII. **Miscellaneous**
- A. **ABSOLUTELY NO TEAM MANAGERS, PLAYERS OR SPECTATORS will be allowed in the umpires/supervisors rooms at Twin Lakes. Breaking of this rule will result in suspension from the league for the player and Team Manager involved.**
- B. No one under the age of 18 will be allowed in the dugouts at Twin Lakes during adult softball league play. Parents are expected to keep their children under supervision at all times while in the park.
- C. Move up rule - Any team who wins their league will be required to move up a minimum of one competition level for the next season of play (i.e. a team that wins a Rec C Spring/Summer league, must move up to Rec B for Fall, etc.).

**SOFTBALL INFORMATION HOTLINE  
349-3610 Press Option #1**

The hotline number will be operable for rain-out information. Please circulate this number to your players. All information on this line will be as current as possible 24 hours a day. **Call after 3:00 p.m. on weekdays and 12:00 p.m. on Sundays** for updated rain- out information.

**VII E-Mail and Web Addresses**

- Tim Fulton, Sports Facility/Softball Program Manager:  
[fultont@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:fultont@bloomington.in.gov)
- Indiana ASA: [www.indianaasasoftball.org](http://www.indianaasasoftball.org)
- ASA (certified bats, equipment, etc.): [www.softball.org](http://www.softball.org)
- Parks and Recreation: [www.bloomington.in.gov/softball](http://www.bloomington.in.gov/softball) This site is designed to provide the following information:
  - Registration Information and Deadlines
  - Rain-out/Make-up Schedule

-League Standings (Updated on Fridays)

**Explanation of Fees**

1. Team Fees are used to cover direct costs of the program (utilities, staff, and field maintenance).  
  
Cost Estimates for several factors are:  
Softballs (2 per game @ \$3.00+)  
Umpires (\$38.00 per game)  
Sanctioning Fees (\$25.00 per team)  
(These estimates do not include Utilities, Labor for Field Maintenance, Institutional Supplies, Insurance, Parking Lot Clean-up, etc.)
2. Two new balls are furnished for each game and one is given to each team following the game. Co-Rec games will be furnished four new balls for each game, two 12" and two 11", these balls will be given to participating teams at the conclusion their game.
3. The ASA sanction fee is mandatory for all teams. This fee is included in your team fee.
4. No forfeit fee is included in the team fee. Prior notice must be given to the Parks and Recreation Department (349-3742) in time to contact the opponent and staff. **If your team forfeits a game without giving prior notice, they will not be able to play again until a \$20 non-refundable fee is paid.** Forfeit fees may be paid at Twin Lakes Sports Park.

**ROSTER AUDIT POLICY**

The Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department will conduct random roster audits during the season; more than one audit may be conducted on a team during the season. We allow managers to add players throughout the course of the season with prior approval. This process is in place to keep the playing field fair by allowing us to make sure that everyone listed on a team's line-up has gained necessary approval. We are making an effort to allow managers more roster flexibility throughout the course of the season. **We expect our managers to follow the rules.**

During random roster audits, the game day Site Supervisor will check the original roster prior to the game with the audited team. Players may be asked to provide identification to verify identity. If the player cannot, or refuses to provide picture identification, the team manager will have 24 hours to prove the player's identity. If the player/manager fails to comply within 24 hours, the game will be recorded as a forfeit for the offending team. **Managers and offending players caught participating without necessary approval and not signed on the team's roster are subject to removal from the league.**

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Playing Rules The official rules of "Slow Pitch" softball as approved by the Amateur Softball Association shall govern the play of the Association except where modified by the Bloomington Parks and Recreation softball league.

League Ties Should two or more teams tie in the final standings of a division, the following tie-breaker procedure will be used.

1. League Forfeits (a team with one or more forfeits will automatically lose)
2. Best percentage in head to head competitive record.
3. Runs allowed in head to head competition.
4. Runs scored in head to head competition.
5. Runs allowed throughout league play.

## **PLAYER ELIGIBILITY AND CONDUCT**

Player Personnel To be eligible to participate in the Bloomington Parks and Recreation adult softball program, a player:

- a. Must be 18 years of age prior to participation. A player is eligible on their eighteenth birthday.
- b. May play on more than one team providing they are not in the same division.  
**Administration will not make provisions during the scheduling process to avoid time conflicts for players participating on multiple teams.**
- c. **A team, in a specific league, is limited to a maximum of 4 players (with approval) who wish to play together on another team in a different league. (i.e., the same five players playing on a Rec A team will not be permitted to participate on a Rec B team.)**
- d. **Players participating on a Comp team must be approved by Sports Administration to participate in Recreational C or D Leagues. Comp Division players may not participate in the E/Rec League.**

### Rosters

1. **Every player must sign the official team roster.** Rosters for the first game are due in the Parks and Recreation Office on the assigned days listed on the fee sheet. Any team whose roster is not on file prior to that team's participation in a game will warrant the forfeiture of that game, and any others played until the roster is completed and on file.
2. **\*\*Roster adjustments and additional players, different from the tentative roster, may be added throughout the course of the season. In this instance, all non-active players must be dropped from the roster. Additional players**

may be added only by approval of the Softball Program Manager and/or Sports Coordinator, and are subject to review by the Softball Betterment Society.

3. **Managers may roster as many players as they need to complete the season. All players added to the roster after the final roster is submitted must first obtain approval from the Softball Program Manager and/or Sports Coordinator and must sign the team roster.**

#### Player Conduct

1. Bloomington Parks and Recreation operates a zero tolerance league with respect to unsportsmanlike conduct before, during, and after games. This includes vulgar language and verbal abuse to our staff. **Conduct in these categories constitutes ejection without warning.** This document is considered a written warning of this policy. A cornerstone of this program is a clean environment; therefore umpires are instructed to issue ejections on audible obscenities. Please notify your players of this policy before the season starts.
2. Any Sports Division full-time staff, Departmental Supervisor, game day Site Supervisor, or any duly appointed umpire, is authorized to remove from the game any player, manager, or spectator who shall dispute the accuracy of their decisions, or judgments on a play or who shall engage in unsportsmanlike conduct. This rule also includes all park and departmental policies/rules and regulations.
3. The manager/coach of the team affected shall be responsible for the removal of the offending person(s) from the game. The game day Site Supervisor will assist in this removal if necessary. If the offender fails to leave within 2 minutes from issue of the ejection, game officials will award a forfeit to the opposing team.
4. **A participant ejected from the game by an official is automatically ineligible for the next game for that team and possibly more at the discretion of the Sports Program/Facility Manager. Additionally, if the participant is rostered with another team(s), he/she is also ineligible for that team's next game(s).** An offending team that accrues a second ejection within any one game results in a forfeiture of that game (this includes traditional or optional batting line-ups) regardless of the availability of a substitute. Any situation involving participant and/or spectator misconduct shall be referred to the Sports Program/Facility Manager for possible further administrative action.
5. A participant who assaults another player, coach, spectator, official or Parks and Recreation employee, will be dismissed from the league. **Violent threats or verbal attacks are considered assaults.** This action may not be appealed before the Softball Betterment Society.



6. Any player who throws a bat that may endanger other participants or spectators will be ejected from the game. No prior warning from the umpire is necessary. The batter shall be declared out and runners may not advance.
7. No player, coach or spectator shall be allowed on the premises in possession and/or under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Additionally, smoking is not allowed within Twin Lakes Sports Park. On March 27, 2003, the City of Bloomington Common Council passed smoking ordinance 03-06. Effective August 1, 2003, this ordinance bans smoking in public places and places of employment within Bloomington.
8. No pets are allowed inside the fenced property of Twin Lakes Sports Park per city ordinance. If a dog is licensed as a "Service Dog", the owner is required to provide the necessary documentation upon request, or the animal in question must be wearing the appropriately labeled Service Dog vest.
9. No manager, player, or spectator is allowed in the umpire room. **Violation of this rule will result in an automatic suspension from the Adult Softball Program. This room is a safe zone where the Umpire Staff can retreat to in an effort to remove themselves from athletic competition and its associated behaviors.**
10. **It is the responsibility of the Manager/Coach of each team to insure that all players have read and understand the provisions of these rules and regulations and those of the Official ASA Rule Book. Ignorance of these provisions is not an excuse.**
11. Casual Profanity Rule: Twin Lakes Sports Park is intended to be a place where families can enjoy an evening of softball entertainment without exposure to filthy, humiliating and embarrassing language and gestures. To that end, we are implementing the Casual Profanity Rule. In general, this rule pertains to expletives (vulgar, profane or offensive language which is verbal unsportsmanlike language not directed at the umpires or opposing players. This language is usually uttered by a player out of frustration and loss of self-control.

The umpire has the authority to assess one "out" per play against the offending team for profanity used by a player, manager, coach or team representative who is on the field or in the dugout. If, in the opinion of the umpire, these words are audible to the umpire and surrounding players or spectators to the extent that they detract from the values of softball competition based on good sporting behavior and fair play, the umpire may assess a "Casual Profanity Out".

Actions of players and/or coaches during the teams final out of their time at bat or prior to them taking the field on defense shall be carried over to the team's next time at bat. Actions of players or coaches during pre-game activities, which occur after the umpires have entered the field of play, will be enforced during that

team's first time at bat. All outs (charged either while of offense or defense) will be assessed against the offending team during their time at bat.

Only one casual profanity out may be assessed against a team per play with a maximum of two (2) per time at bat or in the field. Incidents of vulgar or profane language exceeding these limits will subject the individual(s) involved to ejection from the game for unsportsmanlike conduct. A player ejected from the game for exceeding these limits will not have a casual profanity out charged to their team. The casual profanity out will be assessed as a team out and will not affect any action of a batter or base runner. With one exception, no player will be refused a turn at bat or removed from the bases because of a casual profanity out. Casual profanity outs are administrative outs, similar to those charged because of failure to wear team colors.

Additionally:

1. If the team is at bat and unsportsmanlike words are used by a member of the offensive team, a casual profanity out will be declared. If this out is the third out of the inning, the inning is over and the player at bat at the time of the out assessment will be the first batter the next time the team bats.
2. If the act is committed by the player at bat, he/she will be called out and his/her time at bat is completed. This is the only time a player will be removed from play for casual profanity.
3. If the act is committed by the defensive team, the casual profanity out will be assessed during their next time at bat (ie. Their time at bat will be reduced to two outs or one out depending on the number of casual profanity violations that occurred). No defensive team will be assessed more than two (2) casual profanity outs in any half inning. Defensive players who continue to engage in profanity after two casual profanity outs are assessed are subject to ejection.
4. Casual profanity outs will be administered during the next dead ball. A delayed dead ball signal will be made by the umpire.
5. If the violation occurs in the bottom of the last inning, where the fielding team may not bat again, the ejection rule for unsportsmanlike conduct will be applied. If a team has an eligible substitute, the game may continue.
6. A game may be ended on a casual profanity out made by the offense.

#### Uniform Requirements

1. A minimum uniform requirement for all leagues shall be: All players with same color uniform jersey/or T-shirt with a minimum of 6-inch numerals located on the back. Simply, Red is Red and Blue is Blue. Example: A player playing on a team whose color is Navy Blue, may wear a Light Blue shirt if necessary. Shirts must be worn on offense and defense. **This rule will be enforced beginning with the first game of the season!**

2. **An out will be recorded for any player failing to comply with the uniform requirements each time they come to bat. The player will be allowed to take their turn at bat. If the player would be the 3rd out of the inning, he/she will be declared out and not be allowed to bat until the next inning. No additional out will be declared in the next inning. \*\*The deadline for compliance is the day of your first scheduled game.**
3. Shoes must be worn. Steel cleats are not permitted in league play at Twin Lakes Sports Park. This notification was first provided early in 2012 to allow players time to acquire the proper footwear.
4. Hats, if worn, must be worn with the bill forward.

## **GAME ADMINISTRATION**

1. Games will start at the scheduled time, or upon completion of the preceding game. Game time is forfeit time. A **60-minute** game time limit will exist. The game clock will begin with the release of the first pitch, or one minute after the manager's meeting, whichever comes first. Players are expected to hustle to their positions following the manager's meeting. No new inning will begin after the 60-minute game time limit has expired. No extension of innings will be allowed except in the case of ties.
2. In instances where a preceding game was completed prior to the expiration of the time limit, teams should be present and ready to play within 10 minutes. No game will start before its scheduled time unless both teams agree to start early.
3. Teams will be allowed to start play with as few as 7 players if necessary; nine players must be declared. Co-Rec teams must have a minimum of eight players, four males and four females. Players who arrive late may be added to the lineup. It is the responsibility of the Site Supervisor to declare any and all forfeits for insufficient numbers of players. The team that does not have the required number of players at game time will automatically be assigned as the visiting team.
4. Batting Options
  - A. **Optional Batting Line-up** (Bat your bench) – Teams will be permitted to insert all their players into a continuous batting line-up. If you wish to bat your bench, you must notify the plate umpire when you submit your line-up. Once the game starts you cannot go from a set 10 player line-up to a continuous line-up (bat your bench). **Batting your bench is only allowable with a minimum of 12 players.** When batting the bench, no substitutes are permitted. Recreational teams are strongly encouraged to bat their bench during league play.

If you start with the entire team in the line-up (bat your bench), you should finish with the entire team in the line-up. In the event of an ejection, an out will be recorded in the ejected player's spot at bat. Upon the second ejection the game is forfeited. (See ASA Rule 5, Section 4 regarding forfeits).

***Example:** 15 players show up to play. All 15 players will bat continuously with free defensive substitution allowed.*

- B. Traditional Batting Line-up** –Roster declares 10 players. In addition, teams may bat 1 extra player (EP) within a traditional line-up which would bring your lineup to 11 total players. All ASA substitution and re-entry rules apply. (All ASA. rules apply to ejections).

***Example:** The lineup must declare at least 9. If a team starts the game with 7 players, an out is recorded at the bottom of the batting rotation for each player absent from the number declared. When additional players arrive, they must be inserted into the game and placed at the end of the batting order. If a tenth player arrives, that player becomes a substitute. If a team begins a game with 7 players, that team will be the visiting team. (This rule does not apply to Co-Rec).*

5. Scorekeeping

Scorekeepers will not be provided by Bloomington P&R for league play, and score towers will not be available.

The home team is to keep a scorecard to be provided by the home plate umpire before the game and returned to the home plate umpire at the end of the game. Scorecards need not be kept in the dugout, and may be kept by anyone the home team designates. The home team representative shall identify the scorekeeper to the home plate umpire.

The umpiring crew will have a remote scoreboard controller to change innings, update home and visiting team scores, and to start the game clock. Umpires will periodically check with the designated scorekeeper to ensure that scoreboard information agrees with that contained on the scorecard.

If a “batting-out-of-order” appeal is made, the home plate umpire will consult with the scorekeeper to determine the validity of the appeal.

6. All leagues will play with a 1 and 1 count to start every at-bat. The ASA has implemented this rule for all levels of play, and we feel that this format will result in more complete games and will provide better play experience and value to all involved.

7. Base distances in Bloomington slow pitch leagues are set at 70 feet apart for all leagues per ASA rules.

8. Substitution

A starter may re-enter the game once, provided:

1. He/she must occupy the same position in the batting order.
  2. In the case of player injury, a substitute who has already played may re-enter in the injured player's place to avoid forfeiture. If there is the possibility of more than one substitute, the opposing team may pick which substitute should re-enter the game.
9. A courtesy runner will be allowed after the batter-runner becomes a runner. Only one courtesy runner may be used during a team's turn at-bat. The courtesy runner may be anyone listed on the team's line-up card, including substitutes. If a substitute is used as a courtesy runner, that substitute is not considered to have been in the game. If the courtesy runner is to bat while he/she is on base, the courtesy runner will be removed from the base, an "out" will be declared, and the courtesy runner now takes his/her turn at bat. If the third out of the inning is due to the removal of a courtesy runner, that individual will lead off the team's next turn at bat.
  10. Three-part completed line-up forms must be turned into the plate umpire by the team representative at the plate meeting before game time. Line-up forms are available from the Site Supervisor. Line-up forms must be filled out in accordance with ASA Rule 4, Section 1; including first and last names and uniform number. Games will not start until the line-up cards are filled out correctly. Umpires have the authority to start the game clock and/or call strikes/balls on teams that do not have a properly submitted line-up card.

Below is a properly completed line-up card :

## THE LINE-UP CARDS

### FAST PITCH

TEAM CURLEY'S CAFÉ		
MANAGER TIM KING		
6	JOE BLACK	24
3	RALPH JONES	8
9	JIM JONES	3
DP	HAL GALVIN	9
7	STEVE GILL	11
4	TOM KING	15
8	STEVE ROSS	7
5	RALPH BUSH	00
2	KEVIN HILL	15
1	RICH GIBSON	22
	HARRY SMITH	17
	CARL POST	14
	VIC FRAZIER	10

### SLOW PITCH

TEAM JAKE'S GRILL		
MANAGER JOHN CASH		
6	JOE BLACK	24
3	RALPH JONES	8
9	JIM JONES	3
EP	HAL GALVIN	9
7	STEVE GILL	11
4	TOM KING	15
8	STEVE FOSTER	7
5	RALPH HILL	00
2	KEVIN HILL	15
1	RICH GIBSON	22
10	BILL LOUIS	33
	CARL POST	14
	VIC FRAZIER	10

### CO-ED

TEAM FUN BUNCH		
MANAGER CARRIE COOK		
6	BILL JONES	24
4	SUZI JONES	8
9	KEVIN HILL	3
EP	MANDY KING	9
7	BILL LOUIS	11
5	SUE LOUIS	15
EP	HAL BLAKE	7
10	SONJA KING	00
2	JOE BLACK	15
8	BARB GALVIN	22
3	STEVE GILL	33
1	KIM TAYLOR	14
	TOM POST	10
	KATHY YOUNG	1
	DEBBY HENRY	5

11. Pre-game warm-up is only permitted to take place in the outfield playing area and in designated warm-up areas.
12. **Run Rules: 20 after three innings, 15 after four innings or 10 after five innings.**
13. **Home Run Rules.** The following over-the-fence home run limits are in effect:
  - Comp Divisions– Three home runs per team
  - Co-Rec – Three home runs per team (male and female combined)
  - Women's Leagues – Unlimited home runs per team
  - Recreational A thru C- No homes are allowed
  - Recreational D and E- Any home runs are an half-inning ending out(1<sup>st</sup> batter hits a home run, your team's turn to bat has ended for that half inning).

Players will not run the bases for an over-the-fence home run. All balls hit over the fence in excess of the listed limits will result in an "out" declared on that batter for that turn at bat. Teams are responsible for replacing balls that are hit over the fence. Teams are to replace the ball they hit over the fence with an acceptable ball; brand, size, cover, COR, compression and condition. The COR and compression numbers must be readable. COR/compression numbers for 12" are .52/300. Our Men's Leagues will use the Worth Hot Dot ProComp .52/300 and Women's Leagues will use the Worth Green Dot ball.

14. **In the event a pitcher is struck by a batted ball and has to leave the game due to injury, the bat involved in the incident will be immediately retrieved by**

the umpires and provided to the Site Supervisor. The bat will then be inspected by the Softball Program Manager and/or ASA District Umpire in Chief to determine if it has been altered. If the bat is suspected to have been altered, it will then be forwarded to the ASA National Office for testing. The player using the bat may face temporary suspension from league and local tournament play pending resolution of the inspections. The bat will not be returned to the owner until inspections have been completed. Should the bat be determined to have been altered, the player using the bat, and the owner of the bat, will be suspended from participation in the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Softball Program for a minimum of one year from the date of the incident. The ASA National Office may enact further suspensions of the player and/or owner of the bat. As a further comment, players using and the owners of altered bats have been held civilly liable for injuries sustained by a player as a result of being struck by a ball batted by an altered bat.

15. Beginning in 2014, the Men's E/Rec, Women's E/Rec and CoRec E and F will utilize the ASA Senior Strike Mat rule. For more information, please refer to the ASA Rule Book, Rule 1, Strike Zone, Entry C. A rectangle, 17' x 32.5 which includes the plate and the plate extension (mat). Any legally pitched ball not swung at that lands on any part of the plate or mat will be rule a strike regardless of where the ball crosses the batter's body.

#### Forfeitures

1. Games that are forfeited during the course of play due to a technical rule violation, or games which are forfeited with notification to the sports department at least 24 hours before game time will not have a forfeiture fee penalty imposed. Teams failing to give a 24 hour notice are responsible for a \$20 forfeiture fee to be paid before their next scheduled game. **Co-Recreational** teams must notify the Parks and Recreation Department (349-3700) by Friday at 3pm to avoid a forfeit fee.
2. Forfeit Fees may be paid at Twin Lakes Sports Park. **If a team fails to pay the forfeiture fee before its next game, that game will be declared a forfeit.**
3. A team who forfeits **2 league games** during the regular season is subject to dismissal from the league.

#### Ground Rules

1. Ground rules will be established for Twin Lakes and discussed with team representatives prior to each game.
2. Any player who, in the umpire's judgment, digs or removes dirt from the batter's box will be declared out; "fill and smooth" is permitted, digging is not.

### Regulation Game

1. A regulation game shall consist of seven innings. A full seven innings need not be played if the team second at bat scores more runs in six and one half innings, and/or before the third out in the last of the seventh inning, or the run-ahead rule is applied. In the case of a tie at the end of seven innings, or after time has expired, extra innings will be played to break the tie using the International Tie Breaker Rule (ASA Rule 5, Section 11).
2. The game day Site Supervisor and umpires together may make a decision to postpone or cancel a game in progress due to inclement weather (lightning, rain, etc.). If lightning is identified, play will be suspended for 30 minutes provided there is no additional lightning sighted. Each bolt of lightning restarts the 30-minute delay period. In the event of cancellation due to weather, a game is declared complete if five or more complete innings have been played, or if the team second at bat has scored more runs in four or more innings than the other team has scored in five or more innings. In all situations, the Sports Program Manager and/or Sports Coordinator are contacted before a final decision is made.
3. Games that are not declared complete (regulation) will be replayed from the beginning at a later scheduled date.

### Rain Outs/Rescheduled Games

1. Rain-out information is available by calling the Softball Information Hotline, 349-3610, by 3:00 p.m. weekdays and by 12:00 p.m. on Sundays.
2. The Bloomington Parks and Recreation rescheduling policy stipulates that no game vacancies will be permitted. Rescheduling requires advanced planning and effort by the manager who desires to reschedule. All cases begin with calling the Sports Program Manager or the Sports Coordinator to obtain manager and game information. The two following cases are the only ones permitted:

Case #1        Switch the entire game with another game in any league. This requires approval from all three managers involved.

Case #2        Trade opponents within your league from the original schedule while keeping the game times/dates the same. This requires approval from the switching team and only informing the team that does not change.

***In both cases, final notification must be given to the Sports Staff.***

### **Stealing Rule Will Be Used In Competitive Divisions Only**

**ASA Championship Rules permit stealing in men's slow pitch play.**



**This is ASA Rule 8, Sections 4 and 6. The Bloomington Parks and Recreation softball league has adopted this rule for league play in the Men's Comp Leagues.**

### **PROTESTS**

1. Protests will not be considered regarding judgment situations. Protests regarding rules and their application must follow these procedures to be valid:
  - A. Inform the home plate umpire and Site Supervisor of the protest prior to the next pitch.
  - B. Within 24 hours, submit a written protest to the Parks and Recreation office accompanied by a \$50 protest fee. Protest forms are available from the Site Supervisor.
  - C. In the case of protesting player eligibility or identity, A and B above must be followed. The player must be identified on the spot to the Site Supervisor and the necessary form and fee (B) be submitted. Post-event calls or inquiries on player identity or eligibility are considered self-policing and will only influence future games.
2. The Sports Facility/Program Manager will review the protest and make a ruling. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be refunded. If the protest is denied, the fee will be retained. When a protest is upheld, the game will resume at the point of protest.
3. Decisions made by the Sports Facility/Program Manager regarding protests may not be appealed to the Softball Betterment Society.

### **GENERAL**

1. Any matter not covered by these Rules and Regulations or an ASA Rule Book will be left to the discretion of the Sports Facility/Program Manager and/or the Sports Coordinator. This decision, in all cases, except those involving departmental policies may be appealed to the Softball Betterment Society. Decisions reached by the Society shall be final.



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
parks and recreation

## 2013 CO-RECREATIONAL SOFTBALL RULES

*All league and ASA rules apply to co-recreational softball except for the following:*

1. Men in all Co-Recreational leagues, except Co-Rec Open, must bat opposite their natural hand. Males in Co-Rec Open are allowed to bat their natural hand. If an opposing team wants to challenge the natural hand of a player they must inform the umpire. The umpire will inform the questioned player to switch to the other side to bat the rest of the game. No additional switching of that player will be permitted.
2. The batting order must be alternated, i.e., male bats then female, then male, etc.
3. 2 males and 2 females must play in the infield and outfield and may play any position. The pitcher and catcher must be opposite sexes. \*Exception: When starting a game with less than 5 males or females, at least one male and one female must play in the infield and outfield. The pitcher and catcher must be opposite sexes.
4. A male must be substituted for a male and a female for a female.
5. **\*\*\*Any walk to a male batter will result in a two-base award. The next batter (a female) will bat. EXCEPTION: With two outs, the female batter has the option to walk or bat. NOTE: Should the female batter runner-pass a male batter-runner when choosing to walk, no out shall be called during the dead ball period. A male batter-runner advancing to second without touching first base shall be called out if properly appealed.**
6. Sliding is permitted, however, please be careful to slide only to prevent injury or interference not to cause injury or interference..
7. A game may start with no less than 4 males and 4 females. An out is recorded for every player less than 10 in a game. In the event there are an odd number of male or female players, an out is recorded when the same sex bats consecutively. **Co-recreational teams may bat their bench providing there is an even number of male and female players.** Co-Rec league teams are strongly encouraged to bat their bench.
8. When males are at bat, the 12" ball will be used; when females bat the 11" ball will be used. When the wrong ball is used, the manager of the offensive team has the option of taking the result of the play or having the last batter bat again assuming the ball and strike count prior to the wrong ball being discovered.